

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 ACDA-19 IO-14 COA-02 COME-00

DLOS-06 EB-11 INT-08 DODE-00 DRC-01 /182 W

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2299

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5086

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-79

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, LY

SUBJECT: LIBYAN CLAIM TO GULF OF SIRTE

REF: STATE 207934

1. AT OCTOBER 23 POLADS DISCUSSION OF LIBYAN CLAIM OF GULF OF SIRTE AS INTERNAL WATERS PROTEST LIBYAN CLAIM AND RESERVE POSITION. AS IN PREVIOUS DISCUSSION (USNATO4959), UK SUGGESTED NATO COUNTRIES "COOORDINATE" THEIR RESPONSES TO LIBYAN DECLARATION AND DIPLOMATIC NOTES. ITALIAN AND NETHERLANDS REPS AGREED THAT ALLIES SHOULD "HARMONIZE" THEIR RESPONSES.

2. CANADIAN REP SAID OTTAWA DID NOT PLAN TO PROTEST THE LIBYAN CLAIM. SINCE THERE WERE MANY VIEWS AMONG THE ALLIES REGARDING TERRITORIAL WATERS, CANADA WAS OPPOSED TO COORDINATING NATO RESPONSES. NORWEGIAN REP SAID HIS GOVERNMENT VIEWED THE LIBYAN ACTION AS A VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, BUT HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER OR HOW TO PROTEST. NORWEGIAN REFERRED IN PASSING TO PREVIOUS DISAGREEMENTS WITH UK OVER TERRITORIAL WATERS.
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3. FRG REP SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARING A NOTE TO LIBYA WHICH WOULD RESERVE THE FRG LEGAL POSITION.

4. GREEK, TURKISH, BELGIAN, AND FRENCH REPS SAID THEIR

GOVERNMENTS HAD RECEIVED NOTES FROM LIBYA, BUT WERE STILL CONSIDERING THEIR POSITIONS. ICELAND WAS NOT REPRESENTED AT MEETING.

5. U.S. REP DREW UPON REFTTEL GIVING U.S. POSITION AND PLANS TO PROTEST, SAYING WE WOULD WELCOME SIMILAR PROTESTS BY OTHERS. BEARING IN MIND FYI PORTION OF REFTTEL, HOWEVER, HE DID NOT REFER TO SUGGESTIONS ABOUT "HARMONIZATION" OR "COORDINATION" OF RESPONSES. COMMENT: GIVEN CANADIAN POSITION AND NORWAY'S AMBIVALENCE, "COORDINATION" LOOKS LIKE A NON-STARTER ANYWAY. END COMMENT.

6. POLADS WILL DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT AGAIN NEXT WEEK.
RUMSFELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NATO05086
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS, 12-31-79
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731064/abqcecus.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 207934
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Aug-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <26-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LIBYAN CLAIM TO GULF OF SIRTE
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, LY
To: STATE INFO ROME
TRIPOLI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005